

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the positions of the Examiner, and respectfully request reconsideration of the submitted claims. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 13-15, and 22. Claims 1-8 and 13-24 are presented for further examination.

The present invention discloses an intelligent, modular server management system for enabling selective access, transparent control and operation of a plurality of remotely located computers from one or more user workstations. Further, the present invention provides efficient location, error detection and general status indication of the remote computers. The present invention preferably includes a computer interface unit coupled to each remote computer, a matrix switch unit and one or more user stations with a connected keyboard, video display and cursor control device. Alternatively, the present invention may be a “switch less” KVM solution that enables access and control of multiple servers from a single user console without the traditional KVM switch box and all the usual switch-to-server cables.

Each computer interface unit is connected to the matrix switch unit via a single networking cable, such as a CAT5 cable. The computer interface units receive signals from the remote computer and convert these signals to a format suitable for transmitting over the network cable. Further, each computer interface unit includes a signaling circuit to emit a signal, which may be audible or visual, upon detection of a problem or receipt of a signal command from a user attempting to locate or find information about a specific remote computer. Additionally, the signaling circuit may transmit a message to the user workstation to inform a user of a problem with the remote computer or computer interface unit, general status (e.g., the completion of a firmware upgrade), etc. This message is generally displayed on the user workstation's

monitor. In some instances, if an error is detected, a user at a user workstation may then access the remotely located computer and fix the problem. For example, a user may achieve such access to the problem on the remotely located computer by clicking on a link displayed on the video monitor at the user workstation. Advantageously, this enables quick and convenient access to remotely troubleshoot a problem with just a single click.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 13-20,22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by North et al. US. Patent No. 6,505,245 (“North”). The Examiner then rejected Claims 2-8,21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over North as applied to Claim 1 and further in view of Srinivasan et al. US. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/014835 (“Srinivasan”).

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 13-15, and 22, and herein respond to the Examiner’s rejections by highlighting the differences between the pending claims and the cited references.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 13-20,22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by North. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's reliance on North is misplaced and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Briefly, North discloses a management system for managing computing devices on a computer network from a common remotely located console and without the use of management agents at each computing device. (See, e.g., col. 2, lines 40-44). Further, the computing devices are arranged in logical groups and managed from a

corresponding invocation of a management application residing on a management terminal.

As is more clearly set forth in the amended claims, the present invention is very different from North. First, North does not teach a computer management unit that provides a link on a video monitor at a user workstation to enable access to a remotely located computer simply by clicking on the link upon detection of a specific event. North also fails to teach a plurality of computer interface units comprising a signaling circuit in communication with a separate computer management unit (e.g., communication via a LAN or the Internet). Rather, North's system merely couples a serial VO port of each computing device directly to an event activity module of a central management terminal.

In addition, North does not teach the reception and transmission of keyboard, cursor control device and video signals thereby rendering North incapable of enabling a user at a user interface unit to remotely access, control and fix problems on the remote device as if user was directly connected to the remote device. Data output from the computing device is received by the central management terminal and transferred to the invocation associated with the computing device. Within the invocation of the management application, an event detection module determines whether the received output device data indicates that an event has occurred at the manageable device where the output data originated. North simply does not teach a plurality of computer interface units that communicate with a separate computer management unit nor accessing, controlling and fixing a problem at the remote device from a local user station.

In contrast, the present invention claims in independent Claims 1, 17, and 22 a plurality of computer interface modules in communication with a computer management unit for enabling, *inter alia*, event monitoring as well as the access, monitoring and control of a plurality of remote computers from one or more local user stations. Significantly, the computer management unit may provide a link on a video monitor at a user workstation to enable a user access to a problem remotely located computer simply by clicking on the link.

Nowhere does North teach such a novel design. Indeed, such a design greatly simplifies the identification and trouble shooting of remote problem computers. Furthermore, as previously set forth, by utilizing a plurality of computer interface modules in communication with a computer management unit, the present invention does not require all the remote computers to be in a single location close to the switch (as required by North).

Therefore, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1, 13-20, 22, and 24 in view of North should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Next, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-8, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over North as applied to Claim 1 and further in view Srinivasan. In the opinion of the Examiner, "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the teachings of Srinivasan related to generating an audible or visual signal in response to a detection of an event in a plurality of monitored computing devices and have modified the teachings of North related to remotely monitoring and controlling [a] plurality of network elements in a

communication network in ‘order to provide automatic notification as to any network server problems and to provide corrective actions to be taken’.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, North discloses a system for remotely controlling a set of computing devices on a computer network via a central management unit connected to the computing devices via serial I/O cables. Srinivasan discloses a hardware and software monitoring system for a remote computer including an event monitoring module loaded on the remote computer. That is, Srinivasan requires an additional software program (i.e., the event detection module) to be installed on the remote computer, which raises the potential for interfering with remote computer’s operation and network performance. The event monitoring module itself includes a hardware detector that detects hardware events on the computer that may need attention and a software service detector that detects the status of software running on the remote computer to determine if any software has failed or is not operating properly.

When an event is detected, information concerning the event may be sent to a support site over a network whereby an online specialist can review the information, determine an appropriate action to take, and notify the end user of such actions to take in order to correct a problem. The end user located at the remote computer must then take the appropriate action. As such, Srinivasan is limited to the monitoring of a single computer, whereby when an event occurs, a remote support staff specialist provides the end user with the appropriate steps to correct the problem. The end user located at the remote computer must actually fix the problem.

Thus, even if combining the teachings of North and Srinivasan were proper, Applicants submit that such a combination does not teach the claimed invention as suggested by the Examiner. The present invention is very different from the systems of both North and Srinivasan. In particular, the combination of North and Srinivasan fails to teach remotely accessing and controlling a remote device to fix a problem on that device simply by a user at a user workstation clicking on a link to access and control a problem remote device, as well as the claimed computer interface units in communication with a computer management unit. The computer interface units receive signals, including signals such as those indicative of the occurrence of a certain event, from the remote computer and convert these signals to a format suitable for transmission over a network, such as a LAN, WAN or the Internet.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 2-8,21, and 23 should be reconsidered and withdrawn. The present invention, for the first time, discloses a system and method for intelligent modular remote computer management for monitoring and detecting events at a plurality of remote devices as well as remotely fixing certain problems that arise. A system and method such as this is neither taught nor suggested anywhere in the cited references, including North and Srinivasan. As discussed above, both North and Srinivasan fail to teach a system and method for locating and detecting errors and the status of a plurality of remote devices, as well as enabling access and control of a problem remote device simply by a user at a user workstation clicking on a link, which may be provided by the computer management unit. North and Srinivasan both also fail to teach a system which utilizes a plurality of computer interface units each coupled to one of a plurality of

remote devices and in communication with a computer management unit. Therefore, upon closer review of the cited references in view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that it will be apparent to the Examiner that the rejection of Claims 2-8,21-23 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

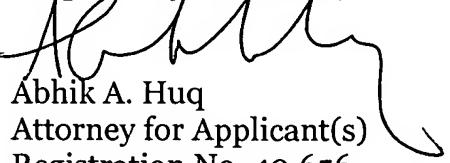
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application as claimed in Claims 1-8 and 13-24 represents a patentable contribution to the art and the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is accordingly solicited.

Correspondence and Fees

Please charge the fee for a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) of Seven Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$790.00) and the fee for a Two Month Extension of Time of Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$450.00), totaling One Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$1,240.00) to Deposit Account No. 03-3839. No additional fees are believed to be necessitated by the instant response. However, should this be in error, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account no. 03-3839 for any underpayment, or to credit any overpayments.

Please address all correspondence to the correspondent address for **Customer No. 26345 of Intellectual Docket Administrator, Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione**, One Riverfront Plaza, Newark, NJ 07102-5497. Telephone calls should be made to Abhik A. Huq at (215) 446-6268 and fax communications should be sent directly to him at 215-446-6309.

Respectfully submitted,


Abhik A. Huq
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 40,656

Date: _____

Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan,
Griffinger & Vecchione, P.C.
1700 Two Logan Square
18th and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103